

---

## Ghaly fails to impress Birmingham

Contributed by  
Saturday, 04 August 2007  
Last Updated Saturday, 04 August 2007

Birmingham boss Steve Bruce decided to pull out of the deal to sign Tottenham midfielder Hossam Ghaly after a training ground incident, according to sources close to the club.

Bruce is understood to have been less than impressed with the approach of Ghaly during a double training session at the club's West Hills complex on Friday.

As a result the Blues chief made his feelings known to the Egyptian international and decided to call off the proposed £3million transfer.

Blues had announced the deal on Monday subject to a work permit but until that had been obtained the formal paperwork could not be completed and technically Ghaly was still a Spurs player.

Bruce has taken advantage of that loophole, although the official standpoint of City remains that "footballing reasons" were the cause of the plug being pulled on the transfer.

Tottenham issued a statement maintaining it was Ghaly's decision to return to White Hart Lane.

The alleged incident overshadowed what should have been a satisfactory day for Birmingham with the capture of Aston Villa central defender Liam Ridgewell for £2million and Fulham left-back Franck Queudrue in a £2.5million deal.